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MAGYAR NEMZET COMMENTS ON CIA STAFF CHANGES

Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET 25 April 1965--A

(Anonymous article: "Changing of the Guard at the CIA in Washington")

(Text) The recent sudden change of top personnel at the CIA was surprising in many respects. Retired Admiral Raborn was appointed head of this famous institution, replacing McCone, who was the successor of CIA's most prominent and "durable" boss, Allen Dulles.

The move was surprising for several reasons, primarily for the fact that currently one of the most dangerous adventures of aggressive American policy is in progress in Vietnam, and it has been known for months that the military and political apparatus of the intervention there is greatly influenced by the CIA. It can be regarded as unusual, therefore, that they suddenly "change horses in midstream" at the summit of the American intelligence service during such a large-scale operation. Another surprising aspect is Raborn himself. It had long been expected that McCone would retire from his top CIA position; his assignment was always regarded as temporary ever since the departure of Allen Dulles, who failed in the Cuban adventure. Raborn's name has never appeared among his probable successors, however, and his biography reveals relatively little experience in intelligence work.

As for the new chief, it seems that his appointment was largely a result of President Johnson's decision, since just like the President, Admiral Raborn is a Texan and was associated on several occasions with the then Vice President Johnson in practical matters during his previous activities. The coordination of the work of various groups engaged in the development of the Polaris missile has been the most outstanding task of Raborn's career so far. He accomplished this task in the capacity of chief of the Navy's "Special Planning Bureau."

He worked in the general staff of the Navy at the time of his retirement in September 1963 in order to be able to enter into the deputy chairmanship of one of the key enterprises of the aircraft industry--a traditional customs of generals and admirals--and he became the leading "manager" of the Aerojet General Corporation of California.

The above shows that not so much his experience but more his Texas ties and personal relationship with Johnson predestined the admiral for the assumption of Cia leadership. There are indications that Johnson primarily expects loyalty to himself personally from the new CIA chief, while the "professional" leadership of the intelligence apparatus has been taken over by Richard Helms, who is considered a tested intelligence expert in the United States and who was promoted deputy to the new spy boss on McCone's departure.

Yet, certain aspects of the "recent history" of CIA and particularly its activities in South Vietnam lead to the conclusion that more than personal reasons should be sought behind the changes. One should proceed from the fact that the various intelligence organs and particularly the CIA, which can be regarded as the foremost of them, have been selected for a most special role in the conduct of American foreign policy. Under "normal" conditions, the intelligence organs have an information-gathering, sifting, analyzing, and evaluating role in capitalist power politics. The CIA, however, has broken out of these bounds in the United States. Several cases, from the overthrow of Iranian Premier Mossadeq through the U-2 scandal, the Cuban aggression, and to Vietnam, indicate that the CIA has become a political and, in many cases, even a military executive organ, which has not always coordinated its operations with the State Department.

This transformation of the CIA's character was linked primarily with Allen Dulles' name. It was on his initiative that the CIA acquired a special weight in the National Security Council, which concretely determines the actual steps of American foreign policy. Formally, the National Security Council is the

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